



STATE OF INDIANA
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For Immediate Release

Excise Officers Arrest Three for Selling Drugs near South Bend School

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (April 12) – Indiana State Excise Police officers arrested three people on drug-dealing and tobacco-related charges Wednesday night after they received a citizen complaint on a South Bend gas station.

Excise officers investigated Olive Street Mini Mart (Citgo fuel station), 421 N. Olive Street, in South Bend, for illegal drug sales and tobacco-sales violations, resulting in three people arrested on seven charges.

Jessie Heflin, 32, of South Bend, was arrested on preliminary charges of dealing marijuana within 1,000 feet of a school and cited for sale of single cigarettes and sale of tobacco with an expired tobacco-sales certificate.

Tyrell Loving, 23, of South Bend, was arrested on a preliminary charge of dealing marijuana within 1,000 feet of a school.

Store owner Manwinderjit Singh, 23, of Michigan City, was also arrested. He was preliminarily charged with maintaining a common nuisance, possession of marijuana, dealing in drug paraphernalia and sale or possession of a legend drug (Viagra).

Olive Street Mini Mart is within 1,000 feet of a school, Kennedy Academy, as well as Kennedy Park.

“Excise officers have the unique responsibility of regulating alcohol and tobacco businesses,” Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. “Because excise officers routinely investigate criminal activity after it is discovered during administrative investigations, their role in law enforcement proves beneficial for the public welfare in communities across Indiana.”

South Bend Police Department officers assisted State Excise Police in their investigation.

As the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, the primary mission of the Indiana State Excise Police is to promote public safety by enforcing Indiana’s Alcoholic Beverage Code. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related laws.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.